

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed and a pair of electrodes are opposed in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively, each of the pair of sealing portions including a shrink seal structure and each of the pair of metal foils including an external lead on a side opposite to a side electrically connected to a corresponding electrode of the pair of electrodes;

wherein at least one of the pair of sealing portions is provided with at least one constricted portion, which is formed in an area between an end of the electrode and an end of the external lead and which is provided in an area other than the areas in which the electrode and the metal foil is connected and the area in which the external lead and the metal foil is connected, and whose length in a direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the metal foil in the sealing portion is smaller than that of other portions in the sealing portion; and

wherein said area in which the external lead and the metal foil are connected is not provided with said constricted portion.

15. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein the length of at least one of the constricted portions in the direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the metal foil in the sealing portion is 70 to 90% of the length of the other portions without the constricted portion.

16. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein one of the other portions is the sealing portion wherein the electrode is disposed.

17. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 15, wherein one of the other portions is the sealing portion where the electrode is disposed.

18. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein at least one of the constricted portions is provided in a portion relatively nearer to the luminous bulb side, rather than a center of the sealing portion.

19. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein a plurality of constricted portions are formed on the sealing portion.

20. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein ends of the pair of sealing portions on a side opposite to the luminous bulb side are tapered.

21. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein each of the pair of metal foils is attached tightly to a glass portion extended from the luminous bulb, and wherein

each of the pair of the metal foils is a molybdenum foil.

22. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein the luminous material comprises at least mercury.

23. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein a thickness of a glass portion from a side face of the metal foil to the surface of the constricted portion is at least 2 mm.

24. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein cross-sectional shapes of the sealing portion and the constricted portion are circular, and an outer diameter of the constricted portion is smaller than that of the other portions.

25. (previously presented) A lamp unit comprising the discharge lamp of claim 14, and a reflecting mirror for reflecting light emitted from the discharge lamp.

26. (previously presented) The discharge lamp of claim 14, wherein the at least one constricted portion is only formed in an area between an end of the electrode and an end of the external lead.